

Dr. Billingsly dies of heart attack

**He ran off
at age 16
to see life**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Billingsly never sought publicity about himself. In fact, he regularly turned down requests for personal interviews.

But, in 1973, he did grant such an interview to Jan Case, a freshman in a journalism class. He requested, however, that the interview not be published. Here is that interview.

Although Dr. Leon C. Billingsly presents a respectable appearance as the president of MSSC, his background does not entirely fit the image. He left home at the age of 16, ran off to sea and, after a number of years spent aboard ship, finally turned to college and coaching basketball.

Actually, Dr. Billingsly said, his life was not as wild as it sounds. He graduated from high school at 16 because he had skipped first or second grade—"Probably some teacher wanted to get rid of me," he surmised—and left home partly because there were so many things he wanted to see and do, but chiefly for employment.

"There was no employment for young people where I was," he said. "I lived south of Springfield, on a farm, and young people had to leave the community to find work."

For a year he worked on laboring jobs, spending three months working the harvests in California. Then World War II captured his attention, and he joined the Navy for four years.

"It was interesting," Dr. Billingsly said. "I traveled a lot. We mostly saw water, but in some countries when we were in port for a long time, some of us would hitch a ride, say with the jeep, and go inland and see the country. You could usually bum a ride in a jeep or supply truck."

Some of these countries included Australia, Tasmania, India, Africa, Japan, Italy, France, England, the Philippines—Dr. Billingsly said he has no desire to travel now, and is content with Missouri.

"I saw many good places to live, but nothing that compared to the U.S.," he explained. "We're fortunate to live here. With all our faults, this is still the best place to live. We have a good system of public education, the privilege of voting for those who will govern us and of objecting to those officials who don't do their job right, our standard of living is higher—things which are common here are a luxury elsewhere."

He left the Navy in 1947 when he was 21 and began college at SMS, graduating in 1950 with a degree in political science, one in biological science, and enough physical education to coach. No jobs were open in the first two areas, so he took the first coaching job he was offered, basketball in Golden City, Mo.

"I was there two years," he said, "and the second year we won the conference. When you have a winning season you get offers—Lamar offered me a job, and I went there."

After two years at Lamar, Dr. Billingsly returned to Golden City as superintendent, his first involvement with administration. He held that job for five to six years, then went to Pleasant Hill for a year, to Pittsburg, to the University of Arkansas, back to Pittsburg, to Joplin Junior College as dean for two years, to Kellogg Community College of Battle Creek, Michigan, then to MSSC in July of 1964.

"It's been interesting," he (Continued on page 4)

★ ★ ★ No classes meet today, tomorrow

Classes will be dismissed today and tomorrow in honor of Dr. Leon Billingsly, first and only person to serve as president of Missouri Southern.

College offices will remain open both days, although they will close at noon on Tuesday for Dr. Billingsly's funeral.

The funeral will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in Taylor Auditorium. Faculty and staff members will be seated as a group in a reserved section.

Ushers for the funeral will be students from the drama department.

Regents for the College met yesterday

afternoon to make some plans for the transitional period. However, no acting president was named and no plans were made for a search committee to screen applications for the presidency.

Board members said they will be meeting frequently during the coming days to discuss the presidency, and said the faculty would be kept fully informed of all steps being taken to fill the position.

Dr. R. Dennis Herd, minister of the First Community Church in Joplin, will officiate at the funeral. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Scholarship fund established

As tributes to Dr. Leon Billingsly began to come in shortly after his death Saturday evening, the Billingsly family requested that no flowers be sent to the funeral. Instead, they asked, contributions should be made to the college to establish a memorial scholarship fund.

Meanwhile, it was announced that the casket bearing Dr. Billingsly's body will be brought to the campus at noon Tuesday and will not be opened again.

In a statement late Saturday, State Rep. Robert Young said:

"I am deeply distressed at the loss of this great and good friend."

"It is very sad for the young people of this area and for the cause of

higher education in the area and the state.

"He had the intellect, personality, and the temperament of a truly great leader as president of MSSC."

"Dr. Billingsly's counsel was extremely valuable to me in the successful legislative struggle to make Missouri Southern a fully state-funded, state-sponsored and state-owned institution of higher education, as Missouri Southern took her place last year among the state colleges and state universities."

"Those who now continue to work for Missouri Southern at home and in Jefferson City will always be inspired by the memory of his sterling leadership and character."

'He carved a college out of wilderness'

For eight years Joy Thompson served as secretary to Dr. Billingsly. She started in that position in 1967 when the college moved from its downtown location to its present site. She left the post in 1975 when she became Joplin city clerk. In those eight years of service to the college and Dr. Billingsly, she formed some strong opinions of the man and of his work.

"He was a tremendous personality; he was the college," she said Sunday afternoon.

"He was at the right place at the right time. He was one of the greatest leaders I have ever seen." She continued, "He had a facility for knowing what was going on around the campus. He literally carved that campus out of the wilderness."

People often commented on how Billingsly ruled the college in an iron-

handed sort of way. Said Thompson, "He was a powerful man. And he did run the college in that sort of way. He received a lot of criticism in doing that. But all great men do."

"He was a political man," she continued. "I know that he was under a lot of pressure working with the people from the state and trying to satisfy others. But he never really let it out."

"And he related well with people, too. Many times I would see faculty members go into his office with a large problem. But he always seemed to work something out. . . . He was very good at solving problems."

For those eight years that Joy Thompson worked for President Billingsly, she commented that he was always working. "He never seemed relaxed, and many times he would beat the staff to work in the mornings. He was one in a million."

'This job has been very satisfying and gratifying. . .'

Dr. Leon Billingsly, president of Missouri Southern, who died Saturday, spoke last spring of "a certain amount of pressure" in the job of being president. "There are times when you just can't leave it at the office," he said.

Early Saturday evening, shortly after returning from a reception for visiting basketball coaches participating in the Lionbackers' holiday tournament, Dr. Billingsly became ill and was pronounced dead minutes later, apparently the victim of a heart attack. He had had no history of heart trouble.

Fred Hughes, who until this fall had served as the only president of the Board of Regents for the College, said, "Dr. Billingsly gave his life for the college."

It was last April in an interview with Chart managing editor Susan Campbell that Dr. Billingsly spoke of the pressures connected with the job.

Stated Billingsly, "This job has a certain amount of pressure. There are times when you can't just leave it at the office. However, the benefits far outweigh the problems. I like it—no, I love it. Or I wouldn't be here now."

One of the benefits of this par-

ticular job has been, according to the late president, watching Missouri Southern grow.

"In the span of a relatively short time, we went from being a junior college with one Ph.D. on the faculty and 11,000 books in the library to a state school with 44 percent doctoral faculty and 110,000 books," he explained.

Although Dr. Billingsly relished in comparing Missouri Southern today with the college then, that "certain amount of pressure" from his job was evident.

EXPLAINED THE PRESIDENT. "It was hard to convince the North Central Accreditation Program at that time that a school the size of ours was going to offer quality education."

"Once the Accreditation Program was convinced, construction was started." According to Dr. Billingsly: "We didn't start working on the theatre or stadium until later. The library went up first, and we still try to put academics first on our list of priorities."

Priorities of the school came under the president's jurisdiction. Dr. Billingsly, the faculty, and the Board of Regents worked together to ensure Southern's path stays on the academic trail.



DR. LEON C. BILLINGSLY

Feb. 25, 1925
Nov. 25, 1978

Fred Hughes, past president of the Board of Regents, said Saturday night: "Dr. Billingsly gave his life to Missouri Southern State College. He was one of the outstanding college administrators of the Midwest."

No other paper due this week

This special edition of The Chart replaces the one normally published on Thursday. The next edition of The Chart will be Thursday, Dec. 7.

This edition was compiled by staff members who began working on it at noon Sunday.

She went on, "He wanted the best educational facility he could get for this area. He loved Missouri. He never did anything halfway. It seemed that he could do anything he set his mind to. And I never doubted that he could not. He had a good board behind him."

Said Thompson, "I remember one time when a girl wanted to do a story on him for one of his classes. I had to talk him into it because he did not like personal interviews. And when the story was written he asked Mr. Massa not to run it in the newspaper. He liked to keep his personal life out of business as much as possible."

And finally she said, "He would talk sometimes of when he would leave Missouri Southern and go into other things, not just education. He knew that someday he would leave Missouri Southern."

"My job, for the most part, is coordinating programs. Dr. (Floyd) Belk (academic vice president) and Dr. (Paul) Shipman (business vice president) work with the academic and physical runnings of the school, respectively, and I work with them. It can be interesting," he said.

One of the ways Dr. Billingsly worked with the other administration officials is through their lobbying efforts in Jefferson City.

"I really don't like to call it that," stated Dr. Billingsly, "but with the new lobbying act, anyone who talks to legislators for money concerning an institution they are connected with must be registered as lobbyists."

IN JEFFERSON CITY, the president spent his time with legislators who make decisions regarding Southern's funding. Dr. Billingsly described a visit with a legislator as a typical office call.

"Some lobbyists spend \$15,000 a session on taking senators to lunch. The last time we filed our report, we hadn't spent any money on that," he said.

Another facet of Dr. Billingsly's job was keeping the college and community in harmony.

Dr. Leon C. Billingsly, the only person to serve as president of Missouri Southern State College, died of an apparent heart attack at his home early Saturday evening. He was 53.

Dr. Billingsly became ill at home shortly after returning from a reception in connection with the holiday basketball tournament. An ambulance was sent to the home at 2514 East 11th Street. He was taken to Freeman Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 6:13 p.m.

Dr. Billingsly was born Feb. 15, 1925, at Reno, Mo., where he was reared. He attended elementary and secondary schools at Spokane, Mo.

He had resided in Joplin since 1961, except for a period from 1963 to 1964.

Dr. Billingsly, then director of Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Mich., became the first president of the Jasper County Junior College which was to become Missouri Southern State College. He took office July 1, 1964. He signed a three year contract calling for \$15,000 the first year.

A former professor of education and head of the laboratory training school at what was then called Kansas State College of Pittsburg, Dr. Billingsly served as dean of Joplin Junior College from July, 1961, to August, 1963, when he accepted the Kellogg college post. He was succeeded in the Joplin position by Dr. C.O. Robinson.

While at Kellogg college, Dr. Billingsly was appointed a member of the advisory in a cooperative agency of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University.

Prior to joining the Kansas State College staff in 1959, Dr. Billingsly taught at Golden City high school from 1950 to 1952. He joined the faculty at Lamar high school for two years and then returned to Golden City as superintendent of schools in 1954. He remained in that position until 1958 when he resigned to accept a teaching job at Pleasant Hill, Mo.

At Kansas State College, Dr. Billingsly's duties included training prospective high school teachers. He took a leave of absence in the 1960-61 school year to complete his studies for a doctorate at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Almost immediately upon taking office as president of the Jasper County Junior College, Dr. Billingsly, members of the Board of Trustees, and others selected the Mission Hills estate as the site for the new four year college.

Dr. Billingsly announced that a master plan was being drawn up to aid in planning for the next 25 years. He emphasized on taking office that the main purpose of the institution is "to fit the needs of Jasper County and its students." Rating the College as "one of the outstanding institutions in the state," Dr. Billingsly said that his hopes were "to keep it outstanding and make it even better."

A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as a chief petty officer. His affiliations include the American and Missouri Associations of School Administrators, North Central Association of Colleges and Universities, Phi Theta Kappa, Rotary Club, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce and Masonic Lodge.

He was a member of the First Community Church. He also was a member of the board of directors of Tri-State Motor Transit Company, Joplin, and of the board of directors of First Security Savings Association, Carthage.

According to Fred Hughes, president of the Board of Regents, Dr. Billingsly attended a reception held at 4 p.m. at The Rafter's restaurant for visiting coaches who were in Joplin for the annual Lionbackers Holiday basketball tournament.

Following the reception, Hughes said, Dr. Billingsly went home and had not been there long before he became ill.

In April, 1977, Dr. Billingsly received the Joplin Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen Award. He was the first recipient of the award not primarily involved in commerce.

Later that year, Dr. Billingsly was granted an Outstanding Alumnus Award from Southwest Missouri State University, where he received his bachelor of science degree in 1950.

During his career in education, Dr. Billingsly was a biology teacher at Golden City High School and a social science instructor at Lamar High School. He received his master of science degree in 1954 from Kansas State College at Pittsburg.

In 1961, he received his doctorate of education from the University of Arkansas, and became dean of Joplin Junior College, now Missouri Southern, that same year.

He later did additional graduate work at Michigan State University, while president of Kellogg College.

Dr. Billingsly returned to Missouri Southern to assume the presidency in 1964.

He married Sue McGehee on May 11, 1944, in Kansas City, Kan. She survives.

Additional survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Connie Sue Godwin, 1335 Goetz Blvd., and three sisters, Mrs. Willard Smith, Springfield, and Mrs. Bernice Majers and Mrs. Oscar Bowers, both of Harrisburg, Pa.

Stated the president, "We call it the town and gown dilemma. Sometimes a city resents a college housed in its limits, and that causes all kinds of problems."

"Here, however, we have the best rapport. People of the community are the people who raised the money for us in the first place."

"They supported us through taxes and they continue to support us—this is their college. I'm very happy they feel that way."

ACCORDING TO BILLINGSLY, Southern has tried to maintain a curriculum of studies that would aid employment in the Joplin area, as a way of "paying the city back."

"We did a study in 1965 to see what jobs are most open for this area and we ranked nursing as number one, auto technology as second, data processing as third, and dental hygiene as either fourth or fifth."

"Since that time we've instituted each of these fields in a separate field of study. In this way, we've tried to give the city something tangible in return for what they've done for us," said the president.

Although Dr. Billingsly stated he could not see himself working as

president of Missouri Southern in 20 years, there were still things he wanted to see done at the college.

One course addition he hoped to see initiated was a master's degree program in business, education, and guidance and counseling.

"With the advent of women's athletics and the increase in enrollment in science and math courses, there are also some things we want to accomplish on campus," he said, "such as a swimming pool, another gym, and a new science and math building."

SUCH PLANS TAKE MONEY, and Billingsly was optimistic about the future funding of Southern.

"Right now, there's a disagreement in the Missouri House and Senate over how much money we'll be appropriated (for the current year). It's one of those manipulative deals, but I think it will work out," declared the president.

Until it did work out, it was another time of pressure for Dr. Billingsly.

"When we make plans," he said, "there are moments of despair and moments when we are at wit's end. All in all, though, this job has been very satisfying and gratifying for me."

The *Chart*, the official newspaper of Missouri Southern State College, is published weekly, except during holidays and examinations periods, from August through May, by students in journalism as a laboratory experience. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the opinions of the administration, the faculty, or the student body.

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The death of President Billingsly has created a void on this campus which will be difficult for any one person to fill. For if any one person can lay claim to having built Missouri Southern State College, it was he. Others found it; Dr. Billingsly built it.

From its days as a civic junior college through its brief history as Jasper County Community College, to its status as a four year institution supported by junior college district funds and by state funds, to its becoming a fully-funded state college, Dr. Billingsly gave the necessary impetus and guidance all along the way that made everything possible. He provided the leadership, the expertise, the firmness which made things happen. His accomplishments will be legendary when the full history of the college is written. What may be forgotten, however, are the means by which he did it all. What may be forgotten is the man.

Those who knew him will have different stories to tell about him. Some may speak harshly of him, but still they will speak with respect for him. But talk to a dozen people who worked with him and these are some of the words which you will hear used to describe him: *firm, fair, ethical, caring, loyal, and meticulous.*

No one can doubt the firmness with which he governed, and neither can one doubt the success with which he governed. Some are likely to say he ruled with an iron hand, that he was unbending, unyielding. Some say he was dictatorial. But no one can say he did not govern, and no one can say he did not make decisions when decisions were called for. He made his decisions with full knowledge of a situation, and he made them in the best interests of the total campus—not for any one group, or department, or division, but for the whole college.

He was fair. Perhaps those who were adversely affected by his decisions did not think so at the time, but in retrospect, they, too, would have to agree. Fairness is difficult to measure, but those who worked with President Billings in times of difficult decisions can attest to the fact that he always considered all affects a particular decision would have on the individuals concerned. He always sought what was best, not what was expedient, but what would balance itself out in the long run for the success the college sought.

He was ethical. Surely there is no one who would have challenged his ethics. Everyone who knew him spoke of the precise manner in which he dealt with people and with situations. Even in the most minute details of running the college, he practiced scrupulous honesty so that no reflection of mis-used funds or mis-used times could be found. Even those who worked for the college on the staff of the college as maintenance personnel knew this side of Dr. Billingsly.

He was caring. And this is a side of him that perhaps fewer people came in contact with. It was a side he often hid, but it was there, nevertheless. Dr. Billingsly thought of his faculty, his staff, and his students as part of his family. He cared deeply what happened to them. He took pride in the accomplishments of his faculty members and in the accomplishments of the members of their own personal family. He may not have shown this pride at all times, but it was there, and those who met with the President detected that feeling of pride. He once remarked to a Chart reporter that he wished he had more time to congratulate people, but, he said, they might misunderstand. But one could see that caring on many occasions, and he often found it embarrassing for it to be discovered.

He was loyal. Again his loyalty was a quality that some misunderstood and perhaps purposely so. He was loyal to his friends, to his colleagues, and to his associates. It was never a blind loyalty, and when it hurt the most was when the loyalty was betrayed. Some of his most difficult decisions were in situations in which loyalty to a friend came in conflict with loyalty to the institution and to the principles in which he believed. In those cases, loyalty became a difficult cross for him to bear.

He was meticulous. As Chart reporters knew well, when facing the President for an interview it was wise to be prepared, to have as many answers as questions, to be able to back up requests with facts, and to have details well in mind. He paid more attention to small details in the running of this college than perhaps any one individual could be expected to. He used to take pride in the fact that he knew everything that was happening on campus. He told a Chart reporter last spring he regretted that the college had grown so much that he no longer knew every detail—but he came close.

The Chart has had no confrontations with Dr. Billingsly in recent years. There was, two years ago, a dispute over a story concerning faculty salaries, but not once did he say the story could not be published. It was not his way. In fact, The Chart has enjoyed more freedom under his presidency than most newspapers in the state, and his dedication to the principles that students could be allowed to make mistakes is one of the reasons The Chart has enjoyed what success it has had.

The college will miss Dr. Billingsly. His habit of dropping in unexpectedly on The Chart staff in the midst of publication will be missed, also. He was the right leader for the time. Replacing him will be difficult.

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By CLARK SWANSON

Many people called him a powerful man, and in many ways he was. A person could tell that by just talking with him. He had a feel around him that told you he was in charge and things were under control. But yet, as many have said, he gave you the chance to make your own decisions and to try out your own ideas.

And I remember the times I would go talk with him about a variety of subjects. It always seemed that he was in firm control of the subject but yet he was always free and open when a difficult question was asked.

But what really told me how lucky I was to have Leon Billingsly as president was when I attended a newspaper convention in Houston, Texas, a few weeks ago. Editors from the other schools were telling me of the problems they were having and had had with their college presidents. They told stories of censorship and of unfair treatment.

And at that point I thought how pleasing it was to have a man that would not tell you your business or tell you not to run a story. The Chart has had some run ins with President Billingsly, but they have always been

worked out in one way or another.

He has always, as far as I can remember, treated The Chart staff fairly and has always made himself accessible to us all. One thing that impressed me in many ways was that no matter where we were, if he saw me he always said, "Hi Clark, how are you?"

And what's more he seemed to care about people. Just not as students and dollars and cents but as people.

Again, I remember one afternoon a few days after the semester started I went to his office to discuss a matter with him. And after we finished with

the business at hand, he asked if I wanted a cup of coffee and after fixing one for me we sat and talked. We talked about Missouri Southern in general and he asked what I was going to do with the rest of my life.

In many ways it was strange because I could not see a college president talking to me about me. It just seemed strange.

Like all men Dr. Billingsly had his faults. And many times I have heard others talk of those faults. But who are we to judge this man? Face it folks, no matter how much you disliked him we owe a lot to this man

By STEVE SMITH

It was a long, hard road in the early 1960's for the group of citizens who fomented the idea of building a college on a grassy hill northwest of town. Many obstacles and setbacks were to face them before the idea became a reality. In the end, as we all know, that college became reality; but after the bills were signed, only a small part of the job had been accomplished. The remainder (the largest part in reality) of the effort was left to others. President Leon Billingsly, who died last Saturday of a heart attack, was at the forefront of these efforts.

All the people who have ever been connected with Dr. Billingsly and this college share a common view of the man. They knew him for his humanity, his sense of fair play and for his

dedication to this school and the people in it. As Fred Hughes, past president of the Board of Regents said about the president, "Dr. Billingsly gave his life to Missouri Southern State College." Indeed, his efforts only ended with his death.

But Leon Billingsly was more than just a hard worker. It takes much more than that to achieve the things he achieved. He was, first and foremost a great leader. Dr. Billingsly was the best leader this school could ever hope to have. He was fair to all. He was diplomatic. He knew how to make decisions. And, above all else, he was possessed with a conscience. In the past months and years as president, no doubt, he had to make many hard decisions in doing his job. And we can be assured, he never made any of these decisions lightly.

I must admit I never knew the

president personally. Other students I have known, however, did know him, had talked to him and universally, had a great amount of respect for him. I might add that in the four years that I attended this school throughout all the trials and tribulations of college life, I never heard any one, faculty or student, complain about the manner in which Leon Billingsly did his job or conducted himself. That alone, I think, is a testimony to the immense amount of respect he not only received, but richly deserved.

Now we must wonder where we are headed. Thanks to President Billingsly and those who followed his lead, the movement and growth of this college is bigger than one individual. And an acting president will be named and another president will be hired to take over his position. If

we are lucky, he (or she) may be as great a leader as our past president. But although his successor can replace him in his job, he can never replace Dr. Billingsly as a man.

In the next weeks many eulogies will be written and many tears will be shed. Dr. Billingsly's memorial services will be held on the campus of MSSC, as they should be. He symbolized this college's hopes and dreams and the hopes and dreams of every person who ever cared for it.

So, for all the students of this college whom he helped so much, I would like to say only two words to Dr. Billingsly—"Thank you." You gave us your dreams, your energies, and, in the end, your life. You may be gone, but you will not be forgotten. Your spirit will be here always, throughout all the future years of this school.

By JIM ELLISON

In life, Dr. Leon Billingsly, the only president that Missouri Southern has ever had, set an example that we all can emulate with pride.

Educator by choice, and college president because of his ability to guide a hopeful dream through the pains of birth, growth, and reality, Dr. Billingsly left the fruits of those difficult labors to the people of this community to enjoy. But more than that, by his labors, he has left an incentive for us to improve upon, and

build to what has already been placed into action by a man who will be sorely missed by all those individuals who know how vital this institution is to the residents of southwest Missouri.

No matter how busy Dr. Billingsly was in the hectic day-to-day administering of this institution, he always had a ready smile, a kind gesture, and an attentive ear for the lowly and sometimes confused student. Because, you see, what made him stand taller than other men of his stature, was his caring—he cared about the school, he cared about

those who served him, and he cared about the students. Men who care are very often men who also dream of better things. Dr. Billingsly was such a man.

We often become dismayed because those we love are taken from life when we least expect it. Perhaps this sudden tragedy will remind all of us of the uncertainty of life—of just how suddenly our fortunes can change.

But if we are doing those things we love to do, then in reality, death is

just another phase of life that we must all accept.

I am reminded of John Donne's Meditation XVII that was written in 1624. He states that "...any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls: it tolls for thee."

The bell tolled for Dr. Billingsly, and now he is gone from us. Someday, it will toll for each of us. Therefore, we must strive to emulate those individuals like Dr. Billingsly, and become doers who care.

President raised college to adulthood

President Billingsly wasn't there at the birth, or even the infancy. He came along more toward the toddler stage of Missouri Southern, and worked to put the college into adulthood.

More than one person has said it, but State Rep. Robert Ellis Young perhaps said it best: "It was due to the tremendous leadership of the Board of Regents and of Leon Billingsly that the college has become what it is today."

The college started in 1937 as Joplin Junior College with an enrollment of 52 students. The classes were offered through University of Missouri's extension service and was supported by the Joplin School district.

In 1938, JJC moved from its temporary home at the old high school to 4th and Byers Avenue with H.E. Blaine placed in the position of dean, an office he retained until 1947. It was during this time that the college gained status and programs with a full two-year program of college courses and technical courses being available at Franklin Technical School. In 1958, the college moved to 8th and Wall St., the structure that now houses Memorial High School in Joplin.

Seven years later, when the college was well settled in its new location, factions in the state legislature drafted a bill that would have established a four-year branch of the University of Missouri in Jasper county with Joplin Junior College as its base.

Joplin Globe managing editor Rex Newman wrote in an editorial that chances would be more favorable for the bill if something like a "two-hundred acre site" could be offered, "preferably on the east side of Joplin so as to make it more easily accessible to the remainder of the county and also to potential students from nine or ten other southwest Missouri counties."

Four months later the bill was well underway in the legislature, having passed the House and cleared committee hurdles in the Senate.

The measure easily passed both the Senate and House and in late June, 1963, was sent to Governor John Dalton for his signature.

According to the pollsters, Dalton would sign the bill, but somewhere along the line, the governor had changed his mind, reversing his earlier stand in favor of the extension.

His reason was the bill was "moving a little too fast" to set up MU branches at Joplin, which only served to incite proponents of the bill into more concentrated action.

Rep. Robert Warden accused Dalton of "burying his head in the sand," and other legislators vowed to reintroduce the bill in the next legislative session.

In April, 1964, another important step on the road to a four-year college in Jasper County was taken when voters approved a new county college district by a resounding three to one margin. The formation of a



In 1962 Dr. Billingsly was dean of Joplin Junior College and accepted a set of books from alumnae for the library.

new district, which would take over the administration of JJC, meant that all county residents as well as residents in small portions of surrounding counties would share support of the institution.

Support came from then Secretary of State and Democratic candidate for governor Warren E. Hearnes announced that he would recommend a four-year college for Jasper County in his message to the state General Assembly in October. His endorsement of the college became a major campaign issue, particularly in this area, with his campaign pledge to support the college should he be elected.

Hearnes' support did not come until after a major fund-raising drive was kicked off in mid-July of 1964 to raise \$300,000 for the purchase of a 230-acre land tract. By that time Dr. Billingsly was president of the college.

The funding committee known as 'Friends of the Junior College,' was able to reach the goal with pledges from area citizens. One anonymous donor pledged \$100,000 to buy the land, and start a building fund for the college.

Billingsly in a speech to the Lions Club said that he presumed permission would be granted to issue a bond issue toward buildings and the campus.

Rep. Robert Young (R), Rep. Robert Warden (R) and Sen. Richard Webster (R) worked to pass the earlier \$240,000 appropriation for the state's share of the operation costs vetoed a year earlier by Governor Dalton.

With the money collected by the 'Friends of the Junior College,' the college district bought the tract of land

that now houses Missouri Southern from Mrs. F.C. Wallower. A 70-acre land tract, south of Newman Road and west of Duquesne Road had been purchased earlier. The board of trustees, headed by H. Lang Rogers, had earlier purchased an 80-acre tract from Mr. and Mrs. Max Whitehead.

The cause was given further support by Dr. George Hall of the University of Michigan in a survey of higher education needs in the Joplin and St. Joseph areas.

The study recommended state support for the new Jasper County Junior College and also the creation of a state-controlled senior college. The latter recommendation was novel to area residents, as no senior college existed in the state at that time. It was Dr. Hall who also suggested that the senior college, with the junior and senior grade level, be operated independently from the present junior college and be put under a board of control.

This turned residents' thinking away from the idea of an extension of Missouri University, and toward a four-year college in southwest Missouri.

It was a year from the time that the fund-raising drive was kicked off in Jasper County to the passage of Missouri House Bill 210 on July 22, 1965, that created Missouri Southern.

Fred Hughes, president of the JJC board of regents called the new college's formation "one of the greatest things that ever happened to Jasper County."

In an official ceremony held on South Main Street in Joplin, a crowd watched as Governor Hearnes stepped from a flatbed truck into the street to sign the bill. After signing

the bill, his wife unveiled a new street marker at Thirty-third Street, officially renaming South Main as Hearnes Boulevard.

In a luncheon held later that same day, Hughes announced the naming of the administration building to be constructed on the new site as Hearnes Hall, saying, "We are convinced that if it had not been for the support of Governor Hearnes, the Missouri Southern State College would not have seen the light of day."

Rep. Young differed with the head of the board of regents when he said, "The thrust to develop the college was originally legislative rather than coming from Warren Hearnes."

"In a few short years we have not attained full public education on a sixteen-year basis. The people in operation have had the vision to emphasize the technical and vocational side of the college's programs. The right emphasis is given on the academic side for all majors."

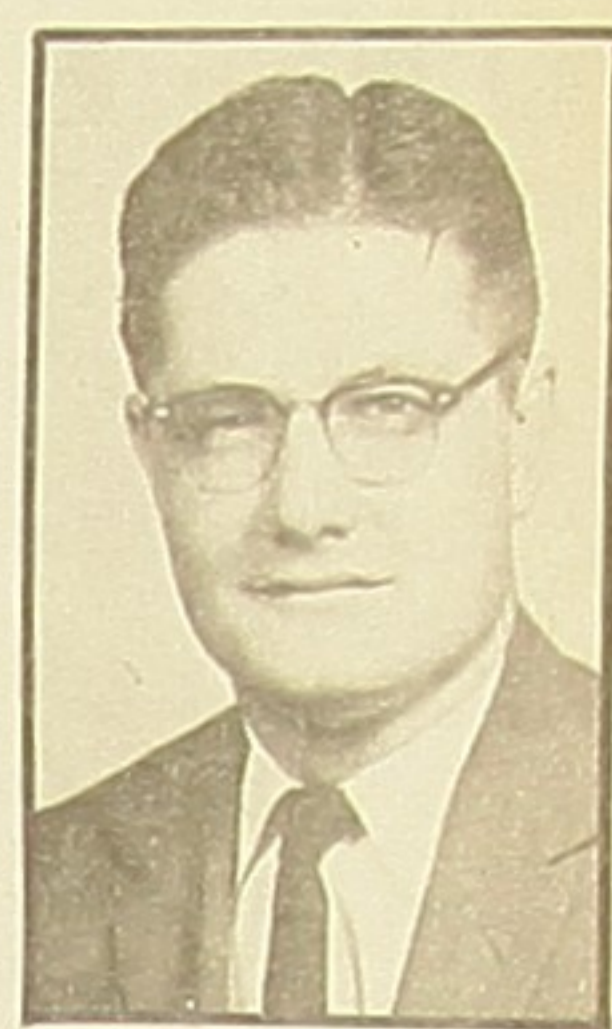
The college continued to build. Effective July 1, 1977, Missouri Southern ceased to be a combination

junior college and state senior college and became state supported for the entire four years of operation.

The institution would be governed by a board of regents appointed by the governor, while the elected junior college board of trustees would have few duties, principally the levying of an annual tax to take care of old bonded debts of the junior college district.

Throughout all these years from 1964 it was a combination of Dr. Billingsly's leadership and that of the Board of Regents which guided the college's development. A new stadium, an addition to the library, an addition to the College Union, a new Education-Psychology classroom building, an addition to the Police Academy—all these became realities—and more, as the college developed.

From rolling, verdant hills, filled with mature oaks, the Mission Hills estate was transformed into Missouri Southern State College, and every detail was overseen and supervised personally by President Leon C. Billingsly.



In 1961 Dr. Leon Billingsly was named dean of the then Joplin Junior College. He was 36 years old.

Shipman recalls president

Dr. Paul Shipman, vice president for business affairs, came to Missouri Southern 13½ years ago to assume his position under President Leon Billingsly. Before coming to Southern, Shipman had worked with Dr. Billingsly several times before. In Golden City, Mo., where Billingsly started his administrative career as superintendent, the association between the two men began.

"I was in National Guard camp in Wisconsin, or somewhere, when he contacted me and wanted to know whether I would teach at Golden City," Shipman continued, "That was back in 1954, so I have been associated with him about 24 years."

From there Shipman followed Dr. Billingsly to Pittsburg State University when he was teaching there, and finally to Missouri Southern. "He was hard working and dedicated; that goes almost without saying. His work just sapped the energy out of him. He was always very busy."

Shipman continued, "He was very humble; he was not seeking self glorification. He did not even have a plaque on his door saying 'President.' That was part of his policy on keeping himself from being glorified."

"And he did not seek interviews. If someone came and wanted some information about a subject, he would usually send them to the person directly related with the subject. He could just have easily told them about it himself."

Shipman continued: "He could have saturated the media with his own name, but he didn't. He wanted what was best for the college."

"If you had to pick one dominating person out in the development of this college, it would have to be he. He put his total effort into this college."

At the moment, most people associated with him are shocked by the president's death. However, it



In 1964 as president of Jasper County Junior College he worked with civic leader Morgan Hillhouse to raise funds to buy the Mission Hills estate which was to become the site of the new four-year college.

3 other men remember President Billingsly

Leon Billingsly came to Missouri Southern for the second time in 1964 to assume the position of president of Jasper County Junior College. He was the first and only president Missouri Southern State College, as it was to become, has had. The man who hired him for that position was Fred Hughes, who until three months ago was the only president the Board of Regents had had.

"Technically, I was commissioned by the board to find a president for Missouri Southern. So I contacted him on the telephone about coming to Missouri Southern. We came to an agreement after about 15 minutes."

Hughes continued, "You could tell by talking to him that he was a strong leader and individual."

"He had a good academic background, which is important. But he had a great business head as well.

And that surprised me that a man from the academic world would have that. He was a hard headed businessman, and the campus shows that."

Hughes went on to say, "Along with the business side he had a good relationship with the legislature and how it worked. He had a closer relationship with it than probably any other college president in the state. And besides that he had a good strong dose of common sense."

Dr. Floyd Belk worked under Leon Billingsly as the vice-president of academic affairs. Belk took that position in April of 1974. Belk talked briefly about working with Billingsly. "It's hard to say; it's almost personal. He was the type of administrator that would give you every opportunity to make your own decisions, and to set up your own programs."

He went on to say, "But yet he was able to ask those hard questions that

(Continued on page 4)

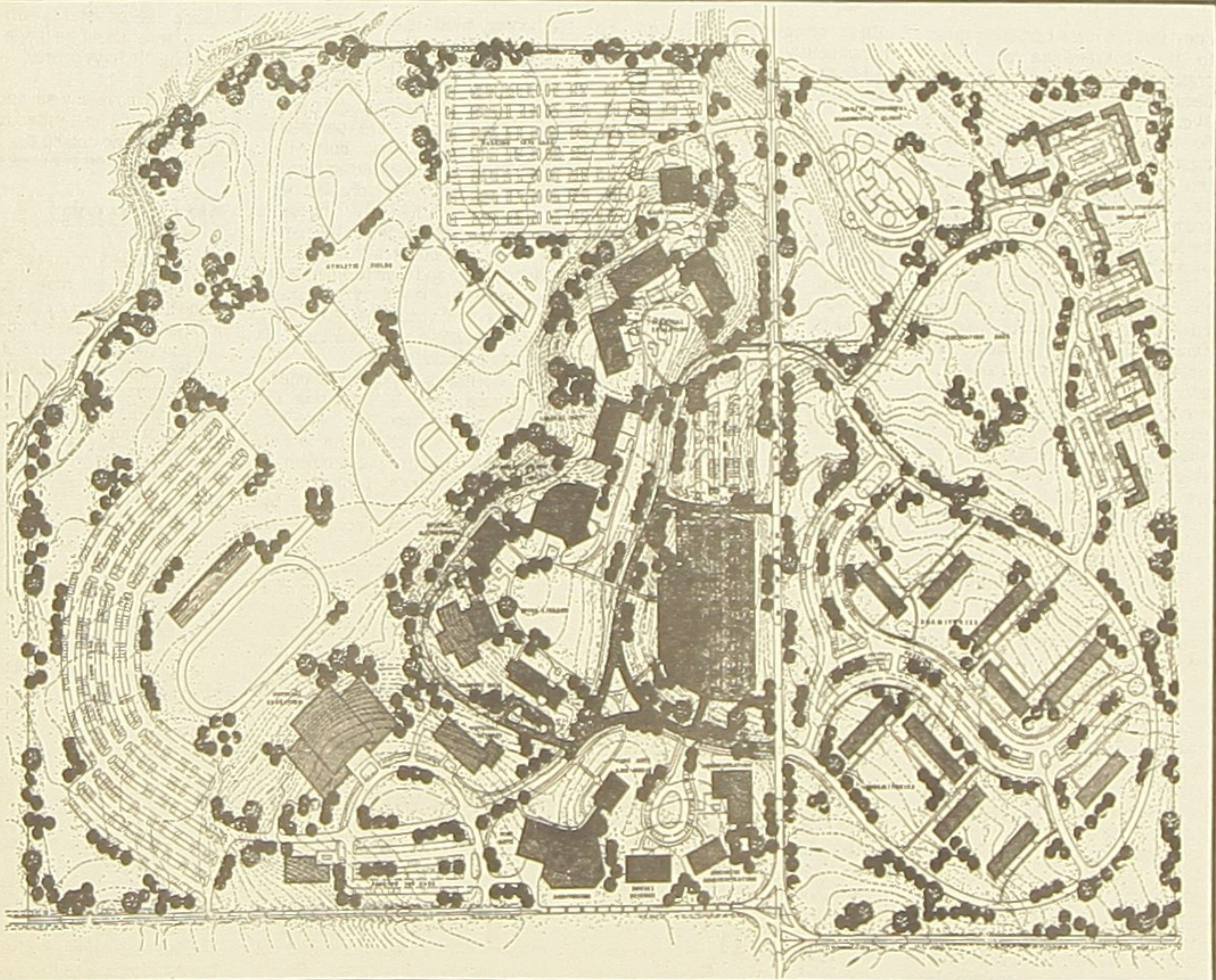
Trustees Buy More of Campus Site



President Leon Billingsly presents a check for the third of four tracts of the new campus to Mrs. F. C. Wallower. Looking on are Herb Van Fleet, attorney for the Board of Trustees, and Rolla Stephens, Joplin realtor, at right, who handled the transaction. The 70-acre tract of land, lying south of Newman Road and west of Duquesne Road, was acquired by

the Board of Trustees for \$65,000. Earlier purchased from Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Wallower was an 80-acre tract. A house and lot within the Mission Hills Estates had been obtained from Mr. and Mrs. Max Whitehead. Acquisition of an 80-acre tract north of Newman Road will complete the new campus.

From The Chart, January, 1965



The college master plan was evolved in the early years of Dr. Billingsly's presidency. It was a plan to take the college through its first 25 years after

its move from downtown Joplin to the Mission Hills Estate, where the college is now located.

NOW! Loans.

Students wishing to apply for short-term loans for Spring, 1979, must have an application on file by Dec. 26 in the Financial Aids office, Room 111, Hearn Hall.

Maximum amount of the loan can only be for one-half of the balance due for registration fees.

The student must be paying full-time fees.

Loans will be due and payable on Feb. 28, 1979.

Mitchell...

Mrs. Grace Mitchell, assistant professor of English, has been selected by the Missouri Association of School Librarians to serve as a juror in this year's selection of the Mark Twain Award program.

The award program is to provide the children of Missouri with their own source to enrich their lives through reading. Jurors select from among children's books published during the past year and arrive at 20 nominations which are voted upon by school children in April. This is the first year a college faculty member has been asked to serve on the committee to select nominees. Mrs. Mitchell, as teacher of the children's literature class at Missouri Southern, is recognized throughout the state as an authority in the field.

The award is given through the cooperation of the Missouri Library Association.

Mrs. Mitchell has been furnished with a list of 31 children's books which have already been placed in nomination. She will read these books and others as they are published in making her selection.

Movie...

The Spiva Art Center film scheduled for Tuesday night has been changed to Wednesday night.

Because of the death of President Billingsly, all college activities for Monday and Tuesday have been canceled.

The Spiva film, Ingmar Bergman's production of "The Devil's Wanton" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Barn Theatre.

Zuger to debut, Mason to return when 'Macbeth' is staged next

Despite the death of President Billingsly, campus life will continue as normal within the week, and among activities still slated to go on is the College Theatre production of *Macbeth*.

For four consecutive nights beginning next Wednesday, Dr. Harry Zuger will reel drunkenly in front of students, faculty, and interested patrons of the arts.

Instead of the reaction such behavior usually engenders, Zuger stands a good chance of being applauded. He's portraying the drunken porter in the play.

It's not a large part, but you'd be surprised how much of a challenge you can have with a small speaking part," declared the head of the language and literature department.

Zuger said he's never acted before because "I never was that interested in it. In college, there were other things going on, and I avoided the stage."

He teaches a Shakespeare class

though, and considers works by the playwright his specialty.

"I just wanted to see it from the other side," he laughed. Though the part of the porter is usually considered a humorous part, Zuger is ready to discuss finer points of the character's make-up.

"This is probably the best example where Shakespeare uses comedy to echo the serious theme of the play. He does not stick comedy in. That would have been too amateur. He weaves the comic element in with the total fabric of the play."

"It's a small part, but I'm looking forward to it. It's a challenge anytime you take on Shakespeare," said Zuger.

Woody Mason is not concerned that his part is small either. He will portray King Duncan, whom *Macbeth* kills in his quest for power.

Mason is not new to the theater. At one time he acted in a traveling troupe, but that was during the depression.

When he first heard about

Macbeth the retired teacher wasn't sure he could still act.

Explained Mason, "I was anxious to see if I could still recapture that feeling on the stage, that same thrill. I haven't seen the crowd yet, but I'm excited."

"It may have been 39 years since I learned lines, but I've been in education during that time, so I've been a showman."

"Once a ham, always a ham."

Mason will retire from the education field next month, and will move to Arizona. There are no immediate plans to reenter theatre, but he said he's subject to change.

"Right now, I think this will be my last part in a play. Well...if they have a part in Arizona I might be interested in, I'll try out."

For now, though, the 68-year-old educator will concentrate on his part in *Macbeth*. There are still some bugs to iron out, said Mason, one being his uncertainty of some of the lines.

"There are several places, said to

say, where I don't have the foggiest idea what he's talking about. That's where expression and body language comes in. Research shows that of all the things we absorb we get 15 percent from the spoken word, 38 percent from expression, and 55 percent from non-verbal communication. I'm relying on that here," laughed Mason.

The king will be disposed of in the first act, but the murder will not take place on stage because, according to the actor, of "technical difficulties."

"It's next to impossible to make a murder appear realistic on stage. I found myself, after seeing both the movie and the play of certain productions, believing the movies more. Maybe I'm just not sophisticated enough to see the subtleties on stage."

Macbeth will be shown at 8 p.m. Dec. 6-9 in Taylor Auditorium on campus. Admission is free to all Missouri Southern students and faculty.

Lions take 2nd place in holiday tournament

Missouri Southern's Lions settled for second place in their own Lion-backer Holiday tournament with a 76-68 loss to Henderson State University of Arkansas, but as Coach Chuck Williams put it, Missouri Southern suffered a greater loss with the death of Dr. Leon Billingsly that very night.

"The loss of President Billingsly is a tremendous loss to the college and community," stated Williams. "He was an avid fan and supporter of Missouri Southern's athletic teams."

The announcement of Dr. Billingsly's death was made to the approximately 1500 fans in attendance just at the close of the tournament. He had hosted a social for tournament coaches, officials, and members of the news media Saturday afternoon just before his death.

Other than the tragic death, the tournament itself was a success.

"We felt that the tournament was very successful in the fact that we were able to bring in some outstanding basketball teams. Also, the luncheon and hospitality hour for the coaches, officials, and press, which was hosted by Dr. Billingsly added greatly and showed class."

"We were trying to get the best small college talent for this tournament that we could. We feel that the better quality teams we play, the better team we will become."

"The quality of play of the teams

was very good," stressed Williams. Henderson State could easily be one of the top 10 or 20 teams in the nation."

Williams added that from the viewpoint of the fans, coaches and crowd and their opinions, the '78 tournament could be termed another success.

Action for the tournament got underway Friday night when Henderson State battled School of the Ozarks and the Lions clashed with Oklahoma Baptist University.

Henderson State walked all over School of the Ozarks, 77-46 enroute to the winner's circle on Saturday. Led by Bill Brewster's 19 points and Johnny Parker's 18, the Lions knocked off Oklahoma Baptist enabling them to dual the Henderson State Reddies for the championship. Coach Williams noted that the Lions had a very tough opponent in Oklahoma Baptist and added the defensive play of the Lions pulled them through.

Before the Henderson-Missouri Southern contest on Saturday, School of the Ozarks and Oklahoma Baptist fought for third place in a preliminary game. The contest featured a scoring battle between OBU's Buck Alexander who tallied 29 points and S of O's Dale Sanders who had 24. However, the scrappy School of the Ozarks pulled out with an 80-68 win.

That set the stage for the championship battle between the Lions and the Reddies. The Lions had entered the tournament with one other game under their belt, a 50-47 win over Southwest Baptist College, while the Reddies entered fresh.

However, Coach Williams and the Lions knew a tough game was in store. The Reddies finished with a 22-7 record last year and returned all five starters to this squad.

The experience of the Reddies showed quickly. They used their depth, speed, and aggressive defense to steadily pull away from Southern during the first half. Bobby Reese's Reddies took command at the start and never trailed in racing to a 43-19 bulge at intermission.

Coach Williams felt the key to the ballgame revolved around this first half. "Our inability to stop Henderson State's fastbreak in the first half and our inability to generate any offense had to be the key of the game," he said. "They rolled up the big lead early and it was just too much to overcome."

Yet, starting the second half, the Lions were intent on recovering. At first the Reddies picked up where they had left off. Southern then switched to a full-court pressure defense that resulted in several turnovers and 14 unanswered points, pulling the Lions within 14, 49-35.

The Lions gradually pulled within five, 63-68, but that was as close as they got. A pair of dunks by Rickey Fisher stopped the Lions' drive as they ended eight points short, 76-68.

"I told our men following the game that there should be no disgrace losing to Henderson State," commented Coach Williams. "We showed real pride in coming back with a chance to win after falling so far behind."

"I would have to say that our press ignited our comeback," he added. "I was proud our men never gave up."

Shelvy Brown led Southern's surge with 22 points. Phil Close added 18.

Brown was the lone Lion named to the All-Tournament Team. Also named to the team were Henderson State's Chris Lockheart and Anthony Avery, OBU's Buck Alexander, and Don Dixon of the School of the Ozarks.

As a result of the tournament, Coach Williams feels that the Lions will have to "generate more offense, and to continue to work in that area."

He added the Lions might be capable of running a press all year and hopefully joked from not so far behind a lead.

He concluded, "The tournament gave a perfect indication of the caliber of competition we will be playing all year."

Kelly:

Scare tactic or not, ecologists take heed

By BLAINE KELLY

I read a startling something in *Futurist* magazine recently that made me want to guzzle all of two ounces of a solvent-like D3 fluid and end it all. I figured, well, if it doesn't kill me, it'll at least extract all the microdust from my lungs. You see, despondency set in after I learned that scientists are forecasting that 500,000 plant and animal species may face an untimely demise before we culminate the 20th century; and I feel somewhat responsible—as should everyone—for what will and is already taking place. I thought: As a self-professed environmentalist, maybe I haven't footed my weight on matters of conservation. Sure, my own actions parlay a devoted fascination for the preservation of my native habitat, and I've cursed enough purblind goons into re-evaluating their silly actions, but that's about the extent of it. So I've decided to speak out—not that it will send any rippled shock waves of help—in favor of what I cherish most in life, since the chilled season of Death in the lasting world of nature is temporarily disassembling the foliage, thus causing an appreciation for what is lost.

If scientists are correct in their hypothesis, or ever are over-estimating as a scare tactic with which to draw the fad of ecology back into the sketch of public consciousness, we could see dramatic changes take place almost overnight that may have an irrepressible snowball effect, putting nature and man in so separated an isolation that we may have only two uncertain alternatives: A completely self-contained and self-sufficient society controlled totally by man's technological advances; or a drastic slow-down in technology and a rever-

sal and re-education of our attitudes and values, putting us back in touch with nature and its teachings. At this point in time, the latter seems out of orbit with our space-age reality.

Obscure ferns, shrubs, insects, mollusks, elephants and wolves are all present on the list of "survival prospects with little future." There are somewhere between three to ten million plant and animal species in existence. Most of these haven't been recorded in the annals of scientific literature, so many species will actually cease before they exist, and we may never be made aware of their biological importance.

Currently, about 1,000 mammal species run the irreplaceable risk of extinction. So while many VIPs are campaigning against inhumane treatment and boycotting those countries (such as Japan) whose blubber safaris annually club the seal population and spear the whale, many species of mammal right here at home may be sliding down the tubes of our test tube technology.

But the U.S. is not the main point of interest. What is of growing interest are the newly industrializing regions of the world where many exotic breeds of animal are being vacated from their original ground because of new commerce and sprawling villages.

Wild animals can't live in close proximity to man. These untamed creatures flee from anything that appears to be an advancing predator, and they sense when their territory is being confiscated. Tree dwellers aren't going to wait around for man to commence sawing the vernal wood out from under their tails. Man, after materializing his barren sea, is forcing nature into an island—into several little islands whose circumference of shore erodes away with the excavation of man's moon-

tide. But the most uprooting threat to the sustenance of higher organisms is the loss of the most fundamental of foodstuffs—plants. About ten percent of the world's flowering plants are in jeopardy of aspiring their last elemental pulse at this very breath. Numbers of conifers in tropical areas are projected to crumble atop a needed deathbed before their potential usefulness to man is tested.

This untapped potential may be the most ironically omniscient and ominous cry of species abbreviation. Opportunities to siphon the benefits from little known plant strains in an effort to supplement food production are in a detrimental stage that could soon deteriorate into a lost cause situation; and any medical properties these plants may inclose will escape us. What's waiting to be discovered may die waiting, and we are one of the chief causes of what may very well be our own unreserved undoing.

Because we appoint a uselessness to many species, we appoint ourselves arbiters of the evolutionary process. But when will that gray matter stop its idealistic yet thoughtless computings of black and white to acknowledge the fragility of nature's balance and the eventual reality of things to come? We can't forever eat, drink and be mercilessly merry without our drink brimming to splash us in the lap, our generous rations cutting themselves off, and our merriment subsiding to despair. We can't pamper ourselves into perpetuity. That duration has to come to an abrupt and tragic halt!

We think technology is a panacea to all our problems. Well, it is also a prolific and paradoxical creator of the major problems of the '70s, and of the crises of the '80s, which lay patiently in ambush. We are brainstorming the realization that the 1500

plus chemicals allowed to tumultuously run amuck on the public each year are causing sporadic outbreaks of cancers for reasons of which we have yet to gain comprehension.

Many—in fact, most—of these substances aren't tested beyond a trial stage, and this has affected a perplexed, ludicrous, sickly looking Food and Drug Administration forced to slap backtracking warnings on products that have circulated for eons, endangering several generations. But we'll have to invest an astonishing trust and dependence in our bureaucratic units, because species deletion will inevitably mean a conversion from natural products to the consumption of man-made extracts and chemicals.

Yes, the U.S. has always been too impulsive to know what's good for it; it's more important for as many unneeded—and truly unwanted, until we are convinced otherwise—products as possible to perforate the market so our capitalistic oligarchy can generate more capital to spiral its growth into something awesome and omnipotent. And we are on the receiving end, waiting for these conglomerates to fulfill our sugar-coated American dream.

Americans want it all—now! They're gusto grabbers. They twitch like a mad pituitary gland to take part in anything that might be prestigious; but when will conservation and ecology evoke some prestigious and dutiful humanity? Maybe with the help of a few down-to-earth people who realize there is only one earth, and that it can't be manipulated, mutilated, reshaped and molded infinitely for profit and enjoyment—maybe then we can save ourselves from a degree of affluence and

technology which is erupting its way to transfix the atmosphere. This fungi-like outgrowth is an advanced infection not because it's the best way, but because technology, and its step-child, inflation, are perpetual motion machines that burn the bridges they have traveled and are in a continual search for more and better resources to fulfill their needs. When technology depletes the earth of its life's blood, it will move on other planets, and then to other solar systems, where it will consume raw materials and vomit the feces; our entire universe will consist of digested particles!

The warning signs of environmental disease have been staring us bleakly in the face for decades, resulting in too much discussion and not enough action. The problem is that our country's political and economic policies are puppeted by the tangled strings of special interest groups. Whoever wins favor through campaign contributions has his problems examined and dealt with. But environmentalists and ecologists can't exert much pressure to defend their cause—life, because Big Daddy Business calls the first shot—and when he talks, the government listens. After all, he's the straw supporting the economic balancing act of this great nation; and he doesn't want a wash of silly regulations that might melt the lard from his belly.

But I'm afraid a few regulations aren't going to do the trick. And no matter how much bad breath anyone expels, or how many journals are brimming with scientific rhetoric, nothing decisive will occur without recognizing the big picture and not only specialized fragments. Only a blanket of political and economic policies will lay the way for the shape of things to come—possibly flat and barren.

He ran off at age 16

(Continued from page 1)

said. "For instance, Kellogg Community College was an unusual situation: it was operated by the city and funded by the Kellogg Foundation. Kellogg gives \$10-\$13 million to charitable and non-profit organizations per year. If you needed money for something, you would appeal to the Foundation and usually get it."

From his years of coaching, Dr. Billingsly might be expected to have a special interest in basketball. However, he amends this.

"I do have a great interest in sports—basketball, football, baseball—but I have an equal interest in drama, speech, music...anything which gives young people an area in which to excel. I think it is important that we provide that opportunity."

As a college president, he might be expected to feel that all students should begin college immediately after high school. But this is also disagreed with.

"Whether he should skip a year or so of college depends on the individual, how mature he is. If I had gone right to college, I would probably have been a complete failure. I was not ready financially, mentally, or in maturity. I wasn't ready to settle down."

"For some, a year between high school and college would probably give a fresh approach. I've noticed that many students have trouble adjusting if they go right in. There is so much more freedom, no one telling you what to do. Some leave college for a while, and when they come back, they're more settled, know what they want to do. They're completely different people."

He noted that now many students are not going to college. College enrollments are down everywhere, he said, which may indicate the beginning of a trend.

Dr. Billingsly feels that by not going directly into college, he gained much in learning about people and meeting people. He described that part of his life as interesting and enjoyable, but said he would not recommend it to students today.

"It's a quick way to mature, growing up on your own. But society is so different now. Then there was no drug problem and less population; we have a totally different values system now."

Dr. Billingsly plays down the unusual aspects of his past life, insisting that if most college presidents' backgrounds were explored, they would be at least as varied an interesting. His attitude is consistent with the modest comment he made concerning his Navy years.

I didn't have any adventures in the Navy; I just waited to get out—like everyone else."

Shipman...

(Continued from page 3)

came at a difficult time, that being the hearings in the state legislature for Missouri Southern's budget.

"I don't know how this will affect us. Of course, our own legislators and senators will look after our own interest as they always have, and to the best of their abilities."

Shipman continued, "It's hard to say in the legislature just how much a certain person can influence another. How he said it and how he got it across to other people are things we just don't know."

3 men...

(Continued from page 3)

would bring you to reality. He was willing to try anything that was proven workable."

Still yet another person whom Billingsly worked with is the present president of the Board of Regents, Jerry Wells. It is his job, and the other regents to hire a replacement for Billingsly.

Said Wells, "We won't be able to replace Leon Billingsly. It is impossible to find someone just like him. The board will meet Friday to set up the guidelines used to name the new president." He went on to say, "This happened so suddenly that no one was really ready yet to take on such a task."